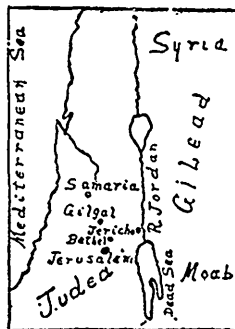


or terraces, such as were found near every town or village and were used, before the temple was built at Jerusalem, for the worship of Jehovah, but afterwards only for idol worship. **From among all the people** (Rev. Ver.); instead of from the tribe of Levi only, Deut. 17 : 9, 18. The Levites in Jeroboam's kingdom refused to follow him in his idolatry, and went south to Rehobam, 2 Chron. 11 : 13-15. **Ordained a feast**; corresponding to the Feast of Tabernacles or Ingathering on the fifteenth day of the seventh month, Lev. 23 : 39-43; Deut. 16 : 13-15. **The eighth month**, The later vintage in the north would be a plausible excuse for putting this feast a month later. **So did he in Beth-el**. The king himself inaugurated the services in Bethel. Likely some of the new priests were sent to introduce them in Dan. **Offered**; sacrifices. **Devised of his own heart**; the root fault of Jeroboam's whole system of worship : it was without divine direction or approval. **Incense**; a mixture of sweet spices burnt as a symbol of prayer, Rev. 5 : 8. (See Ex. 30 : 34-36.)

Ch. 13 : 1-6 tells how Jeroboam's illegal sacrifice at Bethel was interrupted by a prophet from Judah, whose word was confirmed by a miracle, Jeroboam's arm being paralyzed, but healed immediately on the intercession of the prophet.

THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON



BETH-EL was situated high up on the Central Range, about 12 miles north of Jerusalem. "Little remains of it today except its name. It is one of the most desolate-looking places in Palestine. This is not from lack of water, for it has four good springs, but from the absence of soft soil on its rocky hills. All the neighborhood is of gray, bare stone or white chalk. Its miserable fields are fenced in with stone walls, the hovels are rudely built with stone, the hill to the east is hard rock with only a few scattered fig gardens; and a great reservoir south of the village is excavated in the rock."

LESSON QUESTIONS

25 What place did Jeroboam fit for a royal residence? What other fortress did he build? In

what part of his kingdom was Shechem? Where was Penuel?

26, 27 What was Jeroboam's real reason for setting up a new worship? For what feasts every year were the men of Israel required to go up to Jerusalem? What was there in Jerusalem that would likely attract Jeroboam's subjects? What fate did Jeroboam fear for himself?

28, 29 What sort of images did Jeroboam set up? Explain why the figure of an ox was chosen. What reason was given to the people why they should worship through these images? Where were they set up? Why were these places chosen? Read Isaiah's great satire on idolatry. (Isa. 44 : 9-20.)

30-33 Of which Commandment was Jeroboam's worship a breach? Show that it led also to the breaking of the First Commandment. Quote from 1 John a warning against idolatry. (1 John 5 : 21.) What feast did Jeroboam establish?

Describe the interruption of Jeroboam's illegal worship.

FOR DISCUSSION

1. Calves and castles, or God—which is the best defence?
2. The sins to which idolatry leads.

A LESSON FOR LIFE

It is told of Mohammedan sailors, whose religion does not permit them to eat pork, that they sometimes hook a piece of pork to a line, throw it overboard, pause a moment and reverently mutter : "Away pig; come along fish." Then they haul it in and eat it without any qualms of conscience. We may disguise the wrong thing we wish to do, so as to make it appear to be right. But however we may deceive ourselves and others, we can never deceive God.

Prove from Scripture—That idols are helpless.

Shorter Catechism—Ques. 83. Are all transgressions of the law equally heinous? A. Some sins in themselves, and by reason of several aggravations, are more heinous in the sight of God than others.

The Question on Missions—2. To what classes of people do the home missionaries minister? To mission fields in the older Provinces, fishermen and lumbermen in New Ontario and on the Pacific coast, miners, foreigners, and the new settlers in the West from the Eastern Provinces, Great Britain and the United States.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise, Ps. Sel. 16 (Supplemental Lesson); 200; 221; 89 (Ps. Sel.); Ps. Sel. 96 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY); 245.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. Why did Jeroboam set up the golden calves?
2. What reason did he give to his people?
3. How did God warn the king?